

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for providing an image of software installed on a computer system,
2 the method comprising the steps of:

3 (a) deconstructing the image into at least one portion; and

4 (b) creating at least one module from the at least one portion of the image.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the deconstructing step (a) further comprises
2 the steps of:

3 (a2) scanning the image; and

4 (a3) identifying at least one portion of the image to be modularized.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the identifying step (a3) comprises the steps of

2 (a3ii) providing a list of portions of the image to be modularized; and

3 (a3iii) selecting at least one portion of the image to be modularized.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one portion of the image represents
2 at least one software program.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the at least one software program is hardware
2 independent.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one portion of the image represents
2 a plurality of software programs.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein the plurality of software programs comprises a
2 combination of hardware-independent and hardware-dependent software programs.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one portion of the image comprises
2 one or more of an operating system, a set of drivers, and application software.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the creating step (b) further comprises the
2 steps of:

3 (b2) extracting the at least one portion of the image; and

4 (b3) generating at least one module from the extracted portion of the image.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the extracted portion of the image comprises
2 uninstall scripts.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the generating step (b3) comprises the steps
2 of: (b3ii) scanning the uninstall scripts; and
3 (b3iii) generating install scripts from the uninstall scripts.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the generating step (b3iii) comprises the
2 steps of:

3 (b3iiiA) reversing the order of the uninstall scripts;

4 (b3iiiB) determining uninstall scripts from the uninstall scripts; and

5 (b3iiiC) configuring a portion of the install scripts.

1 13. The method of claim 1 further comprises the step of (c) formatting the at least
2 one module for use in a new image or part of a new image to be used with a software
3 program.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the software program is hardware-
2 independent application software.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the hardware-independent application
2 software is a hardware-independent imaging tool.

1 16. The method of claim 1 wherein the module is hardware independent.

1 17. The method of claim 1 wherein the creating step (b) further comprises the
2 step of (b2) creating a plurality of modules from the at least one portion of the image.

1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the plurality of modules comprises a
2 combination of hardware-independent and hardware-dependent modules.

1 19. A computer-readable medium including program instructions for providing
2 an image of software installed on a computer system, comprising the program
3 instructions for:

4 (a) deconstructing the image into at least one portion; and

5 (b) creating at least one module from the at least one portion of the image.

1 20. The medium of claim 19 wherein the deconstructing instruction (a) further
2 comprises the instructions of:

3 (a2) scanning the image; and

4 (a3) identifying at least one portion of the image to be modularized.

1 21. The medium of claim 20 wherein the identifying instruction (a3) comprises
2 the instructions of

3 (a3ii) providing a list of portions of the image to be modularized; and

4 (a3iii) selecting at least one portion of the image to be modularized.

1 22. The medium of claim 19 wherein the at least one portion of the image
2 represents at least one software program.

1 23. The medium of claim 22 wherein the at least one software program is
2 hardware independent.

1 24. The method of claim 19 wherein the at least one portion of the image
2 represents a plurality of software programs.

1 25. The method of claim 24 wherein the plurality of software programs
2 comprises a combination of hardware-independent and hardware-dependent software
3 programs.

1 26. The medium of claim 19 wherein the at least one portion of the image
2 comprises one or more of an operating system, a set of drivers, and application software.

1 27. The medium of claim 19 wherein the creating instruction (b) further
2 comprises the instructions of:

3 (b2) extracting the at least one portion of the image; and

4 (b3) generating at least one module from the extracted portion of the image.

1 28. The medium of claim 27 wherein the extracted portion of the image
2 comprises uninstall scripts.

1 29. The medium of claim 28 wherein the generating instruction (b3) comprises
2 the instructions of:

3 (b3ii) scanning the uninstall scripts; and

4 (b3iii) generating install scripts from the uninstall scripts.

1 30. The medium of claim 29 wherein the generating instruction (b3iii) comprises
2 the instructions of:

3 (b3iiiA) reversing the order of the uninstall scripts;

4 (b3iiiB) determining install scripts from the uninstall scripts; and

5 (b3iiiC) configuring a portion of the install scripts.

1 31. The medium of claim 19 further comprises the instruction of (c) formatting
2 the at least one module for use in a new image or part of a new image to be used with a
3 software program.

1 32. The medium of claim 31 wherein the software program is hardware-
2 independent application software.

1 33. The medium of claim 32 wherein the hardware-independent application
2 software is a hardware-independent imaging tool.

1 34. The medium of claim 19 wherein the module is hardware independent.

1 35. The method of claim 19 wherein the creating instruction (b) further comprises
2 the instruction of (b2) creating a plurality of modules from the at least one portion of the
3 image.

1 36. The method of claim35 wherein the plurality of modules comprises a
2 combination of hardware-independent and hardware-dependent modules.